

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am signing Assembly Bill 159.

California continues to suffer from a severe shortage of trial court judgeships and the ramifications are serious and far-reaching. Ultimately, this shortage results in decreased access to the courts, compromised public safety, an unstable business climate, and, in some courts, enormous backlogs that inhibit fair, timely and equitable justice. This bill will add 50 new superior court judgeships and authorize the conversion of 146 existing subordinate judicial officer positions to judgeships.

While I am signing this bill to address this critical need in our judicial system, I am doing so with the understanding that the author will fix a minor technical issue related to the agency at the State Bar responsible for the evaluation of judicial candidates.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger